

FALL COLOR REPORT 10/22/2012 for E-Mail

Welcome to Iowa's fall color report from the State Forest Nursery. This recording was made Monday, October 22, 2012.

The peak has passed across the whole state. The southern half of the state has decent color remaining, but the northern half is almost bare. This will be the final color report for this year.

Bob Honeywell

In Northeast Iowa: The fall color season is pretty much on the downhill side now. There are still places where the trees are hanging onto leaves and still have good color, but this area is in a rainy period now, and the forester expects that many leaves will come down this week. Best viewing areas remaining now are along the Mississippi River corridor in areas protected from the wind.

John Byrd

In Southeast Iowa: White Oak and red oak are at a great color stage right now. Hickory is brown and fading quickly. Elm, ash, walnut and locust are done with their color change and have dropped their leaves. Maples are showing some yellow but are dropping very quickly. Overall, there will still be some color for a few more days.

Joe Herring

In North Central Iowa: The peak has passed and many trees have lost their leaves. Most of the color that is remaining can be found in the towns and other small protected areas. The oaks are responsible for the majority of the color showing now and are quickly turning from their vibrant color to a brownish color and will be losing leaves this week. Hurry outside before it is gone!

George Warford

In Central Iowa: Other than the oaks, most trees are bare. The majority of the oaks have passed their peak and are beginning to turn brown and drop some leaves. In the Des Moines River valley, the only color left is from the oaks that are displaying a rusty brown color. There are small spots in towns and in protected areas that have some color left on other species such as maples and this will probably be the last week to see any color.

Jessica Flatt

In South Central Iowa: The oaks are looking pretty good in this area. Rusty reds and oranges are showing. Individual oak trees can be quite vibrant. The landscape is getting pretty bare overall, with just the oaks hanging on. In the towns there is still some nice color on maples, walnuts, etc., but the leaves are dropping quickly from rain and wind.

Joe Schwartz

In Northwest Iowa: Most of the trees are bare. The silver maples are in their final stage of color and leaf drop. The red and black oaks have reached their peak at a dark magenta red and are quickly fading. The bur oaks are all brown and are losing leaves.

Brent Olson

In Southwest Iowa: Most trees have lost their leaves. Only a few cottonwoods, locusts and silver maples have a few remaining yellow leaves on them. The very few red oaks and hard maples that are around have a little bit of orange-red color left, but the winds and rains have them almost defoliated.

The State Forest Nursery is offering seedlings for fall and spring planting. If you would like to receive a brochure, please call the nursery at 800/865-2477. You may also view our brochure and order on-line at www.iowatreeplanting.com.